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Remarks

In view of the following discussion, the applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application are anticipated under the provisions of 35 U. S. C. § 102. Furthermore, the applicants believe that all of the claims satisfy the requirements of 35 U. S. C. § 112. Thus, the applicants believe that all of these claims are in allowable form.

OBJECTIONS

A. Specification

The Examiner objects to the language used in the abstract. In particular, the Examiner indicates that the term "invention" is legal phraseology and should be deleted from the abstract. Applicants have amended the abstract to delete the term "invention" therefrom. In view of this amendment, the Examiner objection to the specification has been removed. As such, it is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

REJECTIONS

A. 35 U. S. C. § 112

1. Claims 1-10

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U. S. C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. In particular, the Examiner indicates that "Changer" should be "A changer" in claim 1. The applicants have amended claim 1 to replace "Changer" with "A changer".

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The Examiner also indicates that the term "and/or" in claims 2 and 9 is unclear. Applicants have amended claims 2 and 9 to delete the term "and/or" therefrom.

In view of the above amendments, the basis for the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-10 pursuant to 35 U. S. C. § 112 has been removed. As such, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

B. 35 U. S. C. § 102

1. Claims 1-10 are not anticipated by Yamanaka et al.

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U. S. C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamanaka et al. (European Patent Application EP 0905686 A2 published March 31 1999). The applicants submit that these claims are not anticipated by this reference.

Claim 1 is directed to a changer for disk-shaped recording media (*see*, specification at page 1, lines 24-25). The changer includes a drawer 3 slidably mounted within a chassis 1 and supporting a number of disk plates 7 (*see*, FIG. 1 and the specification at page 3, line 31 to page 4, line 8). The disk plates 7 are arranged one above the other (*see*, FIG. 1 and the specification at page 4, lines 1-4). At least one disk plate 7 is mounted at one end via a hinge 9, 10 at the drawer 3 such that it is pivotable about a horizontal axis of the chassis 1 of the changer (*see*, FIG. 2 and the specification at page 4, lines 10-13).

Yamanaka et al. describes a stocker apparatus for storage medium (*see*, Yamanaka et al. at column 1, lines 7-12). The stocker apparatus 10 includes a base frame 12 disposed in a chassis 11 (*see*, Yamanaka et al. at FIG. 1 and column 6, lines 7-9). A sub-frame 13 is retained pivotably by the base frame 12 (*see*, Yamanaka et al. at FIG. 1 and column 6, lines 9-10). Stocker tray 16 is fixed near the upper wall of sub-frame 13, while stocker trays 17 and 18 are

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disposed slidably in parallel to the stocker tray 16 (see, Yamanaka et al. at FIG. 1 and column 6, lines 17-20).

Yamanaka et al. does not describe or suggest a changer for disk-shaped recording media including a drawer slidably mounted within a chassis and supporting a number of disk plates that are arranged one above the other wherein at least one disk plate is mounted at one end via a hinge at the drawer such that the disk plate is pivotable about a horizontal axis of the chassis of the changer. Rather, Yamanaka et al. teaches a completely different arrangement in which a sub-frame retained by a base frame of a chassis of a storage medium stocker is pivotable. Since Yamanaka et al. does not teach a changer for disk-shaped recording media including a drawer slidably mounted within a chassis and supporting a number of disk plates that are arranged one above the other wherein at least one disk plate is mounted at one end via a hinge at the drawer such that the disk plate is pivotable about a horizontal axis of the chassis of the changer, claim 1 is patentable over Yamanaka et al.

Claims 2-11 depend directly, or indirectly, from claim 1. As such, the applicants submit that claims 2-10 are also patentable over Yamanaka et al.

CONCLUSION

Thus, the applicants submit that none of the claims, presently in the application, are anticipated under the provisions of 35 U. S. C. § 102. Furthermore, the applicants believe that all of the claims now satisfy the requirements of 35 U. S. C. § 112. Consequently, the applicants believe that all of the claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

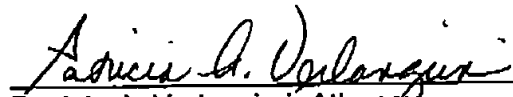
If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring adverse final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Ms. Patricia A. Verlangieri, at (609)

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734-6867, so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia A. Verlangieri, Attorney

Reg. No. 42,201

(609) 734-6867

Patent Operations
Thomson Inc.
P. O. Box 5312
Princeton, New Jersey 08543-5312

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